

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 22-23 are now pending in the application. Claims 17-21, which were previously withdrawn, are now cancelled. Minor amendments have been made to Claims 7, 13 and 14 to address mere informalities and to simply overcome the objections and/or rejections of the claims. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment.

Applicant submits that the claim amendments are consonant with the amendments and arguments previously presented in the prosecution of the present application; hence the amendments to the claims do not add new matter or require further consideration. Further, Applicant believes that these amendments will place the application in condition for allowance and/or in better form for appeal. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 13 and 14 have been objected to for being in improper form due to multiple dependencies. Applicant has amended Claim 13 so that it only depends from Claim 7 and similarly, Claim 14 was amended so that it only depends from Claim 13. The descriptions of certain terms in Claims 13 and 14 have been directly incorporated for sufficient antecedent basis. Applicant believes that the amendments to Claims 13 and 14 should address the objections to the claims and requests reconsideration thereof.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 7-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 has been amended to remove the reference of R1 to "a precursor thereof." In view of this amendment, Applicant believes that the rejection is now moot and request reconsideration of Claim 7 and its dependent claims 8-14.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicated that Claims 1-6, 15-16, and 22-23 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough examination of the claims and for the indication of allowable subject matter. As stated above, Applicant believes that the amendments to Claims 7, 13, and 14 should now bring all of the pending claims into condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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